

## **II. View Management Landscape Zones**

The viewpoints landscape management plan is subdivided into three primary management zones represented at each of the viewpoint sites. Management prescriptions are designed to address maintenance issues for individual zones as determined by the site. The three areas are based on general use and landscape characteristics:

### **Zone 1 – Developed park landscape**

This area generally has the most level grades and is located at the top of a slope. Zone 1 is usually the most accessible portion of the site and the most actively used for park functions. Maintenance demands are often the greatest in this developed portion of the park and it is included in routine and seasonal care. The vegetation in Zone 1 often includes turf and ornamental plants requiring more regular pruning and attention than the naturalized areas.

For most viewpoint parks, the Department of Recreation and Parks provides site furnishings in Zone 1 to support and encourage the use of the park. Benches, trash receptacles and often defined viewing locations have been marked to enhance and enrich the viewing experience.

Currently, the maintenance in Zone 1 for most viewpoint sites is managed by the geographical sector park maintenance staff.

### **Zone 2 – Transition area at crest of slope**

This zone is located at and immediately below the slope. Depending upon the site, grades in the transition zone can range from a ridge declining to a gentle slope, or to a bluff condition where erosion issues are of paramount concern. Since erosion potential is highest at the crest of all slopes, vegetative cover is critical in minimizing surface soil attrition and preventing the loss of land that could result from slope failure. Management of Zone 2 needs to be given highest priority in protecting the developed portions of the park from eroding.

The transition zone also separates Zone 1, the developed park landscape with the highest maintenance requirements from the more naturalized hillsides with fewer and less frequent maintenance demands.

Many established DPR viewpoints have successfully defined the transition zone with a single or double row of shrubs creating a hedge effect. Because of the success of these established locations, it is recommended that a similar treatment be implemented for all DPR viewpoint sites. This management prescription functions to:

- visually define the edge of the slope
- create a natural barrier for public safety
- protect the top of slope from both surface and sheet erosion
- provide a physical definition for scope of maintenance work between the developed park and the naturalized urban forest
- presents an aesthetic appeal, reinforcing the value as a public amenity
- uses only non-invasive species, with preference for natives

### ***Plant selection***

Since maximizing views is of greatest importance in managing these parks, plants historically located in the transition zone required routine pruning to maintain viewsheds. Typically, plants used as hedges in the transition zone have been labor intensive requiring frequent ‘topping’ or hedging to maintain height and size .i.e. English holly, English laurel.

Since the intent of viewpoint vegetation management prescriptions is to reduce labor costs and maintenance demands, plant selection proposed for the Zone 2 –Transition Zone will be plant species that do not require routine pruning to optimize views. Plant selection will be based on the following criteria:

- genetically predetermined not to exceed a general height of 3-4 feet
- growth habit provides a physical barrier with appropriate spacing
- cultural requirements reflect the winter wet and dry summer cycle
- available within the local nursery industry.
- meet Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) guidelines (enclosed in appendices)

### **Zone 3 – Hillside**

The hillside zone shall be managed as natural conditions, requiring the least intensive maintenance. The planting and management of these areas is to encourage vegetative cover with plants that characteristically:

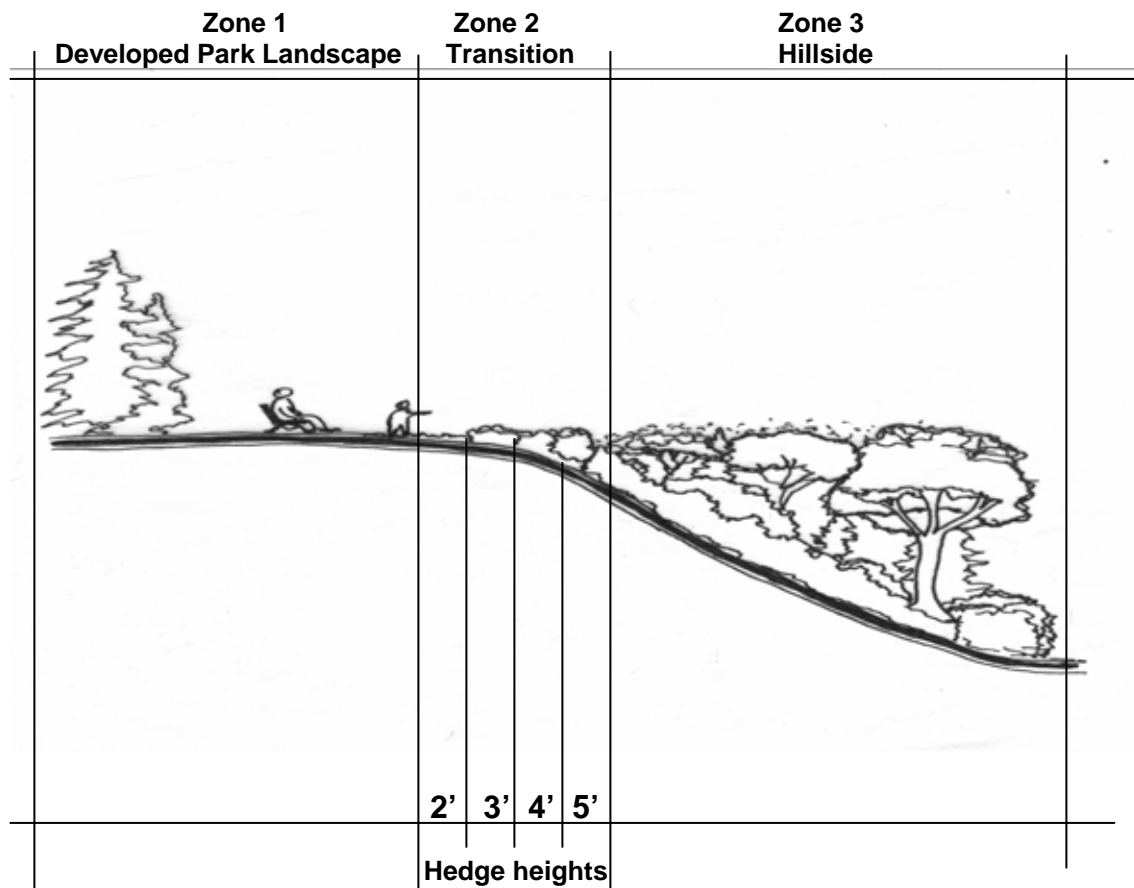
- vary in root development; offering a range in depth and density for slope stability
- provide habitat for wildlife
- are adapted to minimal maintenance
- are adapted to the typical wet and dry cycles of the region.

Native plants are well suited to this zone and many native species already exist on the viewpoint hillside locations. These can be augmented with additional natives after tree management and invasive weed removal occurs. Specific management prescriptions for each hillside condition are

noted in the Site Evaluation and Management Recommendation section of the plan.

The figure below graphically represents a typical section of the Landscape Management Zones.

**Figure 1 – Typical Viewpoint Landscape Management Zones**



Plant selection  
for hedges will  
vary in height  
and width  
depending on  
slope location  
and steepness  
of drop-off